AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicants submit below a complete listing of the current claims, including marked-up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A network device interaction system <u>in a computing device adapted to connect to a network, the system</u> comprising:

a registry; and

a processor configured to execute a plurality of software components, the components comprising:

an application component ~~that seeks to utilize~~ <u>adapted to utilize</u> a network device;

<u>a monitor component that detects arrival and departure of the network device on the network, whereby the computing device can determine when the network device is accessible to the application component;</u> [[and]]

a configuration component that automatically configures the network device ~~to operate~~ <u>for operation</u> with the application component <u>in response to arrival of the network device being detected by the monitor component,</u> by:

receiving metadata for identifying the network device, the metadata comprising a hardware identifier for the network device;

determining configuration information using the hardware identifier for the network device, the configuration information indicating a configuration of the network device and comprising one or more registry keys; and

configuring the system with the configuration information, the configuring comprising setting, in association with the hardware identifier, the registry with the one or more registry keys from the configuration information<u>;</u>

<u>an association component for forming an association between the computing device and one or more other network devices based on user input; and</u>

> a display component that displays to a user of the computing device an interface indicating associated network devices, the interface selectively including a representation of the network device in a format indicating the network device is available based on an output of the monitoring component.

2.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration information further comprises a device driver associated with the network device, and configuring the system further comprises loading the device driver.

3.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein configuring the system comprises setting the registry with the one or more registry keys, the one or more registry keys indicating a user preference.

4.   (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the device driver is loaded from a local data store or is downloaded over the Internet.

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the device driver is received from the network device.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the device driver is retrieved from a computer readable medium.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the device driver is retrieved from a computer over a local area network.

9.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein configuration of the network device further comprises updating device firmware to a newer firmware version packaged with the device driver.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein configuration of the network device further comprises writing a copy of a most recent or current device driver package onto the network device.

11-26. (Canceled)

27.   (Currently amended) A method of configuring a network device on a network for use with at least one other network device installed on the network, <u>wherein the network device is a computer peripheral and the at least one other network device comprises a computer,</u> the method comprising:

  <u>receiving, through a user interface on the computer, information defining a credential;</u>

  associating the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u> with the ~~at least one other network device~~ <u>computer</u> at least by authenticating <u>between</u> the ~~network device with respect to~~ <u>computer peripheral and</u> the ~~at least one other network device~~ <u>computer</u> using [[a]] <u>the</u> credential;

  in response to authenticating <u>with</u> the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u>, storing information for re-authenticating <u>with</u> the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u>;

  locating a driver component associated with the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u>;

  retrieving the driver component;

  loading the driver component to facilitate installation of the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u>;

  detecting that the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u> is no longer on the network; and

  using the stored information for re-authenticating <u>with</u> the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u> to automatically re-associate the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u> with the ~~at least one other network device~~ <u>computer</u> when the ~~network device~~ <u>computer peripheral</u> is reconnected to the network.

28.   (Canceled).

29.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[28]] 27, wherein locating a driver component comprises searching a local data store of the computer.

30.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[28]] 27, wherein locating a driver component comprises searching a remote server.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein searching a remote server is accomplished over the Internet.

32.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the driver component is retrieved from the network device computer peripheral.

33.   (Canceled)

34.   (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 27.

35-40. (Canceled)

41.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the credential is an identification string and authenticating comprises receiving the credential identification string through [[a]] the user interface.

42.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the credential is a certificate-based credential and authenticating comprises employing the certificate-based credential.

43.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising establishing a secure, authenticated communications channel.

44.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 43, further comprising encrypting communications between the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral and the at least one other network device over said communications channel.

45.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
        receiving metadata from the network device,
wherein the metadata is used in locating the driver component associated with the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral.

46.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising detecting the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral on the network.

47.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein detecting comprises searching for the network device utilizing Simple Service Discovery Protocol (SSDP).

48.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein detecting comprises searching for the network device utilizing Web Services Discovery (WS-Discovery) Protocol.

49.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein detecting comprises passively receiving a notification from the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral that it is connected to the network.

50.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising updating device firmware to a newer firmware version packaged with the device driver.

51.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising setting one or more registry keys with configuration information for the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral.

52.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising storing the credential on a computer-storage medium.

53.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the configuration component is further configured to associate the network device with at least one other network device at least by authenticating the network device with respect to the at least one other network device using a credential.

54.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform a method of configuring a ~~network device~~ computer peripheral on a network for use with a computer on the network, the method comprising:

        receiving metadata for identifying the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral, the metadata comprising an identifier for the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral;

            obtaining a credential based on user input received through a user interface on the computer;

        associating the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral with the computer at least by authenticating the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral with respect to the ~~at least one other network device~~ computer using a credential;

        determining configuration information for the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral using the identifier, the configuration information comprising driver files and one or more registry keys; and

        configuring the ~~network device~~ computer peripheral with the configuration information, the configuring comprising:

            setting the one or more registry keys in a registry of the computer and in association with the identifier; and

            loading the driver files onto the computer; and

        accessing the computer peripheral using channel security.

55. (New)   The system of claim 1, wherein:

the interface selectively include a representation of the network device by displaying

a ghosted icon of the device when the output of the monitoring component indicates that the

network device is not accessible to the computing device.

56. (New)   The system of claim 55, wherein:

the interface displays representations of a set of network devices that have

associated with the computing device.